MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2000

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SUSAN CEE WINEBERG

Open Houses Showcase Our Collections And Kwanzaa

During the first two weekends in December the Society held its first Christmas Open House. On display were many of our dolls, especially Miss Emily and the Nancy Ann Storybook Dolls from the collection of Pat Austin. Also on display were the Hodges Doll House, antique clothing from the Douglas and Bach collections, antique Christmas cards from the Agnes Spokes Harris collection, several antique toys and games loaned by Karen O'Neal, several of our fantastic quilts, and an old Christmas banner from Mack and Co. Several people loaned objects to us. One was an 1880 child's cutter (sleigh) loaned by Lita Ristine that was made by Adolph Gustave Schmidt, her grandfather. Another was a large table loaned by Harriet Birch made from a 300-year old tree by her grandfather David Allmendinger.

But the highlight of the open houses were the tin mechanical toys loaned and demonstrated by Board Member Ralph Beebe, who did yeoman service for the two weekends. Ralph happily played with and talked about his toys to an average of 30-40 people each day the Museum was open. Karen Simpson, with the help of Pam Newhouse, prepared a historically correct Ginger Punch and Gingerbread Cookies for both weekends and Board member Karen O'Neal created a gingerbread house in the shape of MOMS. Collections Chair Judy Chrisman, with the help of Pat Thompson, brought and set up most of the displays. Others who helped with the set up were Patty Creal, Nate Rosenthal, Lucille Fisher, Peggy Haines, Julie Goodridge, and Diane Ferguson. Two Men and a Truck donated the moving of the display case to MOMS from the Schwaben Verein Building.

Photo by Karen O'Neal

Karen Simpson is all smiles as she explains Kwanzaa to some future WCHS members.

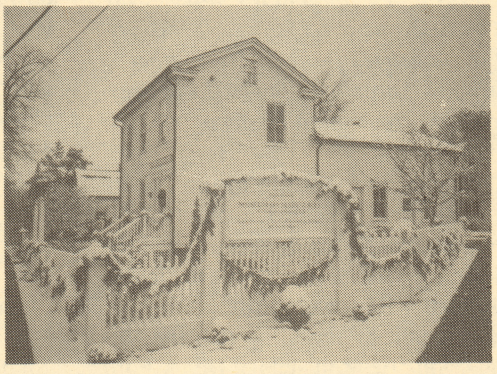


Photo by Louisa Pieper

MOMS is all decked out for the holidays.

On December 28th, Board Member Karen Simpson hosted a Kwanzaa Celebration attended by about 30 people. On the menu were homemade items including sweet potato pie and sweet potato bread, bean pie and bean cake, Benne wafers (sesame seed cookies), mint tea, and ginger tea. Karen and her sister, with the help of Pam Newhouse, prepared all the items and explained the meaning of Kwanzaa to the audience. All who attended learned a lot about this relatively new celebration by African-Americans, which runs for 7 days. It focuses on traditional African values of family, community, responsibility and self-improvement and is seen as a time for reaffirming African-American ancestors and culture.

Docents during the Open Houses were Jay Snyder, Arlene Schmid, Rosemarion Blake, Louisa Pieper, Pauline Walters, Ginny Hills, Pete Rocco, Sally Silvennoinen, Nancy Bryk, Connie Branson and Susan Wineberg. In other words, every one on the board pitched in and made this a great success!

More photos on page 6.

TED J. LIGIBEL

Henry Ford's Village Industries

On Sunday, November 11, 1999, about 65 people filled the McKenny Union at Eastern Michigan University to hear Dr. Ligibel's fascinating talk on Henry Ford's purchase and restoration of 19th and 20th century mills in the Metro Detroit area for use in his Village Industries project. Dr. Ligibel is currently Director of the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern.

After an introduction to the history of Eastern Michigan University (celebrating its 150th anniversary) and the McKenny Union, which was dedicated by Eleanor Roosevelt, Prof. Ligibel began his talk by revealing that the Village Industries concepts of Henry Ford at one time were not well known to him. He noted that he had grown up in Toledo but spent his summers at Clark Lake in Michigan. "I found my life circulating around these village industries without realizing it: Tecumseh, Saline, Manchester, Brooklyn, Northville, Plymouth, --all these little communities I found so interesting, so did he (Henry Ford).

He had the means to go out and buy these places and thank heaven he did. This is an interesting thing about Henry Ford. He and Clara were very intriguing, provocative people in the good sense. Henry was a visionary...there's no question about that. He could see things that might happen many decades down the road and he had the wherewithal to cause some of those things to happen."

"He did a lot of interesting things beyond being head of Ford Motor Company. One of these things is Greenfield Village (Edison Institute) and the Henry Ford Museum and the School, which you can still attend. The first use of Greenfield Village was for the school, but public pressure forced him to open the Village to the general public after a year or so. He had this interesting side to him which was 'preservation according to Henry.' This was the history that Henry wanted you to know and thought you should know. It was well intentioned. So he purchased and moved many buildings to Greenfield Village. Many people perceived these buildings now as having been 'stolen' but they probably would have been demolished had Ford not purchased them. A good example is the cycle shop of the Wright Brothers. The Logan County Courthouse where Lincoln practiced law was practically abandoned and in ruins when Henry got it. The beauty of it is, we now have those buildings to look at and study. Cities like Dayton are now replicating the Wright Brothers Cycle Shop so they can interpret this aspect of their history. And not a month goes by that Greenfield Village doesn't get a letter saying 'give us our building back."

Photo by Susan Wineberg

Ted Ligibel (left) chats with Russell Bidlack (right) in November.

"Henry also cannibalized buildings. Greek Revival houses in northern Ohio were purchased essentially for 'parts.' This is very provocative to me in a good sense and from a historic preservation perspective it's really important because it was a national model. But it was not the first village of its kind. That distinction belongs to a collection of buildings known as Skansen in Stockholm, Sweden. They were the first, in 1891, to interpret buildings in the Living History sense. In America in the mid-1930s, Greenfield Village in Michigan, Williamsburg in Virginia and Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts were the beginnings of the historic preservation movement."

"Another aspect of the preservation ethic of Henry Ford is the subject of this talk. Ford's Village Industries illustrated another aspect of his creative potential. He and Edison shared a love of inventiveness, which was the foundation of the HF Museum. Ford also was very interested in preserving farming as he had known it. Edison was probably instrumental in developing Ford's ideas about his Village Industries project as well, since they were both farm boys who became inventors. One indicator of Ford's reverence for farming is the fact that one of the first buildings brought to Greenfield Village was the Ford family farmhouse."

"Not long after the turn of the century, Ford had the Jeffersonian idea of promoting the educated farmer while helping him to continue farming. In a sense, he was already worried about urban sprawl. The reality was, that with the coming of the industrial revolution and changing technology, farmers didn't have enough to do in the winter and many got jobs with, surprise, the auto industry. Ford thought that if he could keep farmers working in the winter, they would stay in their communities and go back to farming in the summer. This was the ideal. There is even a rumor that Ford Lake on the other side of I-94 and the Ford Plant was meant to be drained every summer so that it could be farmed. Obviously it didn't work. But Ford was continually trying to come up with ways to keep people busy."

"Ford began to dream up this plan. He would buy up mills in the region (as far west as Brooklyn, just into Jackson County) and all along the Huron, Rouge and Raisin Rivers. *(Dr. Ligibel passed out a brochure and map of the Ford Heritage Trails published by the Wayne*

County Parks Commission, the U-M Dearborn, and the Michigan Dept of Transportation and noted that there are many more mills than he can discuss today). Many believe this idea was hatched in the Powerhouse on the Ford Estate at Fairlane (now part of the UM-Dearborn) which is on the Rouge River. Ford bought many mills and in some cases tore them down and built new ones. But in many cases he restored them so that they were once again useful. We will focus on the restored ones today."

"Wayne County wanted to research these mills and tie them in with the area's most famous personality to promote this unique aspect of Wayne and Washtenaw counties. The story of the Village Industries was largely an untold one until the Wayne County Parks Dept. decided to produce these brochures and maps to commemorate and celebrate the mills."

Dr. Ligibel began with a slide of a Model T—an item that revolutionized the world. Slides of Fairlane followed with a short discussion of Jens Jensen's landscaping and the pool (now a restaurant) and Edsel Ford's room. The Powerhouse was shown to illustrate Ford's fascination with the possibilities of power. A slide of the Edison labs, which Ford brought from Menlo Park, was also an illustration of this. Ligibel noted that the Village Industries Project was undertaken in the last 20 years of Henry Ford's long life—and may have been a kind of ruse to get him out of the hair of the managers of Ford Motor Co. "It intrigues me that this [the Menlo Park Labs] is the world they were coming out of—where everything was driven by belts and pulleys. That was their heritage. Remember that as late as the 1920s people weren't sure if electricity was merely a fad, or going to last."

"The other thing which excited Henry Ford was water power, especially as a source of power in the future. Water was thought of an inexhaustible resource, no doubt due to our proximity to the Great Lakes. So, waterpower was seen as a way to run these restored mills, and this in turn would keep farmers in their communities and not force them to work in a factory. The ultimate goal was for farmers to be employed in the winter so they could farm in the summer. This is a very Jeffersonian ideal. It is no surprise that many of these ideas are also expressed at Greenfield Village. Community life, not just the mill, is Henry's focus."

"This is the little historical village of **Northville**, which some of you know very well. The literature always mentions Ford's preservation of the mill, although they actually tore the old one down and replaced it with an Art Moderne powerhouse. But there is always this sense that the central community is important. Villagers would be able to shop, recreate, go to church, and work in their little community and not be forced to move to Dearborn or Detroit.

"There is also an interesting architectural sub-type of the Gothic Revival which is unique to the Northville area and shows that these were not backward farmers. On the contrary, this is the highest quality stuff, really Hudson River quality. It is important that we have this huge collection of a distinctive architectural form right in this little village. So this is part of the community character which Ford wanted to preserve."

"Here is the mill pictured in a bucolic setting with a mill pond and stream. It illustrates Henry's strange idea to use water power to maintain a direct link with the past, and his preference for water power over electricity to run this mill."

This mill, on the site of a mill since 1827, started production in 1920 specializing in engine valves. The modern building is complemented with the historic water wheel. Mill Race Village, located on the mill pond, is an outdoor museum of restored historic buildings open for tours on weekends. The Northville Spring Park on the tail race of the mill is open to the public as well and is located at the east end of Northville's Main Street.

The next mill was at the little village of **Cherry Hill** on Ridge Road and Cherry Hill Road. "All the land in the area has been purchased by one developer for a shoe factory so everyone is encouraged to look at the village before it is completely surrounded by development. Ridge Road is a winding road, indicating it is probably an old Indian Trail. There are some very old homes here from the 1840s and 50s and in the center is a wonderful crossroads hamlet with an old inn. Remnants of the old stable remain intact."

The village flourished between 1840 and 1920. The Cherry Hill Hotel and the M.E. Church date from the Civil War Era. Henry Ford bought the plant site on the Lower Rouge River about 1940 and a village industry plant produced car locks from 1944 to 1950. Its employees were all disabled war veterans. Henry Ford also restored the schoolhouse, which was a short distance from the plant. Ford even paid the wages of the teachers. "The school is still there and is used as a community center. In fact we are meeting there for our last tour of the hamlet by my students before it becomes something else. This is one of the smallest of the villages that Ford took on."

"Ford was also an experimenter with hiring women and with extracting plastic from soybeans. One of the places he did this was way out in western Washtenaw at the far end in Sharon Township...one of the most beautiful and one of the most rural

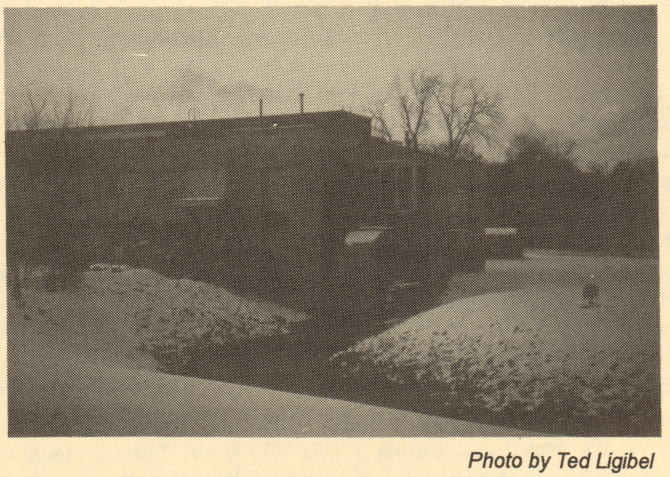


Photo by Ted Ligibel

The Northville Powerhouse in 1993.

remaining in Washtenaw County today. Take Grass Lake Road, Pleasant Lake Road or Scio-Church Road and discover the joys of the Sharon Short Hills, a rolling landscape named by the early surveyors of the 1820s. Dirt roads are a special feature as are the trees and the many natural beauty roads in the township. Osage orange hedges, planted originally as hedgerows, are a remnant of this early method of fencing. They grow very densely and become as large as trees if left untended. In 1876, one of the ways Michigan celebrated the nation's centennial was to plant maples along the roads. The beautiful maples in Sharon today are probably descendants of some of these trees."

Sharon Mills is the oldest of the village industry mills. It was built in 1834 and is a jewel of Greek Revival architecture. It is located on the River Raisin in the hamlet of Sharon Hollow tucked away on a back road. "On the other side of Pleasant Lake Road is the dammed River Raisin which is the water power for the mill. It is still producing power today. This is a magnificent spot and one of the most beautiful settings in the county, even in winter. You know you are arriving somewhere special as the road dips down and you go over the River Raisin. The topography features hills, which are remnants of glacial moraines full of granite fieldstones, which were used for the foundation of these mills. It was also in this area that Ford started experimenting with soybeans and plastic and there are still people in the area who remember him quite well, some fondly, some not so fondly."

Photo by Ted Ligibel

The Greek Revival style mill at Sharon Mills in 1993.

"This is one of the mills Ford preserved. He renovated the interior and added on a powerhouse with a working turbine, which generated electricity. You can look through the windows, which is what he wanted you to do, to see the magic and the power of water. It may be one of the last turbines still working in his mills. Note the tall form of this Greek Revival Mill which became a distinctive American landmark. Other features of this style include the frieze boards, gable returns, six over six windows and the fairly chaste, simple exterior. These were hallmarks of the Greek Revival style which were adapted to a larger building type. We see these showing up all over this part of the country and a few still remain, though many were demolished. The term 'grain elevator' came from the grain needing to be elevated since these mills used a gravity system to sift and grind grain as it went downward from a high elevation to produce flour."

From 1939 to 1951 the Ford Motor Company operated the mill and produced cigar lighters and stop light switches for cars using recycled metal. Later, the building was a private residence for over 30 years and then served as the Sharon Mills Winery. The cool stone-walled basement of the mill was used for the aging of champagne and the mill's generator provided power to maintain the wine production equipment. It was just recently purchased by Washtenaw County to become part of the county parks system.

The **Brooklyn Mill**, also on the Raisin River, was built in 1937. "It later became part of the Jackson Gear Co. and is now privately owned by a fellow who is trying to restore it and make it a milling museum. This is as far west as Ford went since this is the westernmost edge of the River Raisin. Clark Lake is the watershed divide. We know that Indians were using this area as a portage."

The mill stands on the site of a mill built in 1834 by the Swain family, which founded the town of Brooklyn. Ford purchased the mill site in 1921 for the village industry project, about nine years after Brooklyn Mills burned down. The plant produced auto horns, distributors, and starter switches. From 1954 to 1967 the mill produced plastic interior parts and lamp lenses.

"The last mill we will look at today is **Dundee**, the southernmost of Ford's Village Industries. It is down the middle reaches of the River Raisin, ten miles outside of Monroe and just before the Saline River merges with the Raisin on its way towards Lake Erie. This is also one of the classic old mills with its old impoundment intact."

"This mill is also in the Greek Revival style and was built in the 1850s. In 1912 it was converted into an electric plant providing power for Dundee. The mill was bought, restored and expanded by Henry Ford in the 1930s and produced copper welding points for the Ford Motor Company up to 1954. The mill was given to the Village of Dundee by Wolverine Fabricating in 1970. The village now uses the mill as a complex for a historical museum, council chambers, and community center. It is open to the public every Sunday from June through August and the second Sunday of the month from September through May.

"Henry Ford was a larger than life person. He lived to be an old man and died in 1947. His life spanned a period of great transition, from the Industrial Revolution to the beginnings of the technological era. Even as late as the 1940s, shortly before his death, mills at Manchester and Northville were built using waterpower. This is really testimony to his genius."

"The publication of the Wayne County Parks brochure had an interesting history and eventually led to the declaration of this entire area of SE Lower Michigan as an **Automobile National Heritage Area** by the US Dept of the Interior. Wayne County deserves credit for promoting this area and for getting this national recognition. This is an important development because it allows all sites related to the automobile industry to be linked and interpreted for their role in the development of culture and community in 20th century in America. This will give people a new reason to travel and a new understanding and appreciation of these things, which is good for preservation.

One thing to look at before you go is this map of the Detroit River, which was just, designated an **American Heritage River**. This ties in directly with the National Automobile Heritage Area. Suddenly you have several spines now interconnected and at the center is Henry Ford.

"This is preservation planning for the future. It is tying together disparate phenomena such as auto companies, roads (US-12), neighborhoods, technology, factories, and architecture. It is now the big picture rather than just historic buildings or districts which is being emphasized. Welcome to the new world!"

Information about these mills can be obtained through a brochure entitled Ford Heritage Trails. It is published by the Michigan Travel Bureau, PO Box 30226, Lansing MI 48909, in cooperation with the Michigan Dept of Transportation, UM Dearborn and Wayne County Parks.

Detroit Observatory Has Lectures & Open Houses

The Detroit Observatory continues its lecture series and open houses this year with Margaret Cool Root speaking February 8 on "Henry Tappan, his Observatory and his Dog: Prussian Pretensions in Provincial Ann Arbor." On Tuesday March 21, Prof. Ted Ligibel of EMU's Historic Preservation Program will speak on "Preserving the Big Picture: Heritage Areas and Cultural Landscapes." And on Tuesday April 11, University Planner Fred Mayer will speak on "Campus Planning: The Evolution of the Ann Arbor Campus 1837-1900." All lectures are free and at 3 PM in the Observatory Library.

Open houses are held in the newly restored 1854 Observatory once a month on Thursdays during the Winter term. A $5.00 donation is suggested. The dates are February 17, March 16 and April 13 from 1-4 PM. Call 734-763-2230 for more information and to arrange tours.

Wishes, Wishes, Wishes

We need a fairy godmother, father or whatever to tackle some very large projects that need to be completed. The house needs to be repainted at a cost of **$5,000**. We also need to have the lighting completed in the parking lot for a cost of **$3,000** and in the front of the house for **$1,000**. If you find money burning a hole in your pocket because of the booming stock market, please think of the WCHS!

Speaking of the stock market, we would like to alert our members and supporters of other ways they can give to the society. Members can remember the WCHS in their **wills** when they make their estate plans. This is an excellent way to provide financial support to the Society. Another way to help the Society and your tax position is a gift of paid-up life insurance. Individuals may find themselves with a paid **life insurance** policy that no longer serves its original purpose of providing financial support for a spouse or children. By assigning the policy as a gift to the Society, the donor receives a tax deduction for a contribution in the amount of the cash-value of the policy. The Society receives the benefit of the policy upon the donor's death. Confer with your tax consultant before any decisions, however.

Property may also be donated with significant tax advantages. The land you own can even be donated now while reserving the right to use it for the remainder of your lifetime. Gifts of **Securities** can also be advantageous to the donor in that capital gains taxes can usually be avoided. Employers who will match your donations to qualified charitable or educational organizations sometimes offer **Matching Gifts**. Contact your employer to see if the WCHS qualifies. There are lots of ways you can help the WCHS grow and prosper.

Historic Buildings To Be Designated

Two historic buildings in Washtenaw County are being nominated for historic designation. The 1928 Cotswold Cottage Style **Tuomy Hills Gas Station** at the intersection of Washtenaw and Stadium Blvd. will be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on January 14, 2000 in Lansing. After approval, the nomination will be forwarded to the US Department of the Interior for listing in the Register.

The **Esek Pray** house, located on Ann Arbor Road in Superior Township, is being considered for designation as a historic district under the supervision of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. The Pray House, built of local brick in 1839, has many interior features similar to the Museum on Main Street, including an amity button in the newel post. This is not surprising since they were built in the same year! The Study Committee appointed to recommend approval of the designation consists of Scott Diels, Louisa Pieper, Marnie Paulus, Grace Shackman, Nancy Snyder, Jane and John Van Bolt, Kay Williams and Susan Wineberg.

We have just learned from the Michigan Department of State that the **Floyd R. Mechem** House at 1402 Hill St. has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of December 9, 1999. The Colonial Revival house was built in 1898 for Tappan Professor of Law Floyd Mechem and in the mid-1930s served as a Women's League House. It is undergoing extensive renovation and listing on the National Register was pursued to take advantage of the new state tax credits for historic houses.

How To Join

Send name, address and phone number with check payable to WCHS to: Treasurer, WCHS, P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336. Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100. For information call 734-662-9092.

SUSAN CEE WINEBERG

Open Houses Showcase Our Collections And Kwanzaa

Top left: Sally Silvennoinen and Ralph Beebe enjoy Ralph's collection of mechanical toys.

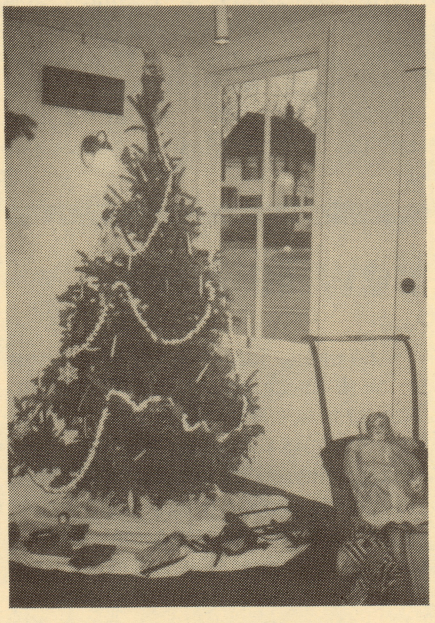
Bottom left: Our old-fashioned Xmas tree is festooned with popcorn garland.

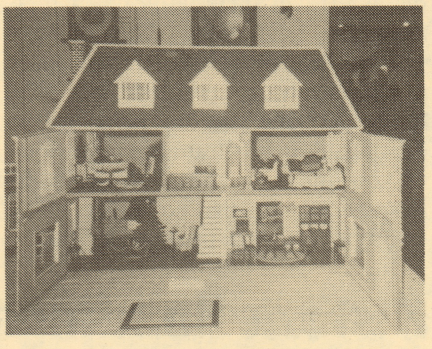
Top right: Ralph Beebe with one of his mechanical toys.

Middle right: The Hodges Dollhouse looks very inviting.

Bottom right: Former Board members Elizabeth Dusseau and Bets Hansen in the Dusseau Room.

Photos by Susan Wineberg





Beach Balls Still Have Some Bounce

Thanks to all our supporters for their continuing donations to our Beach Ball Fund Raiser. To date we have collected over $3300.00. All proceeds go into our Museum Fund. We have used some of these monies to pay our carpenter to custom make storm doors and insulate some of the windows.

Visit Our Museum Shop

We have a number of items that can be purchased between 11 AM and 3 PM. One best seller is the reprint of the **1896 Ann Arbor Headlight**, with photos of houses, businesses and faculty members of that year. We also have other books dealing with Ann Arbor and County history for sale, including **HISTORIC BUILDINGS: ANN ARBOR** by Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg. Also for sale are painted porcelain bells made by board member Harriet Birch especially for our shop, Fimo pins created by Diane Sekaros Ferguson, and pancake flour from the Kellogg Mill in upstate New York. Call Pauline at 734-662-9092 to set up an appointment.

Artifacts To Donate

Anyone wishing to donate an artifact to WCHS should contact Collections Chair Judy Chrisman at (734) 769-7859. Artifacts should be related in some way to the history of Washtenaw County. You can also write Judy at 1809 Dexter Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. You will be sent an acquisitions form for tax purposes if the item is accessioned.

Condolences

The WCHS extends its condolences to Karen Simpson and her family on the death of her mother which occurred in January. Karen and her sister were instrumental in making our holiday open houses a great success.

We also regret to report the death of Life Member Margaret Cameron in January of this year and the deaths of Dr. Cantieny and the Pearsalls (Allan Pearsall spoke to the Society last year on Antique Tools) in 1999.

WCHS Program Schedule

Mark your Calendars for our future programs. All programs are on the third Sunday of the month from 2-4 PM and are free and open to the public. Refreshments are usually served. All members receive a post card reminder of the event with instructions on how to reach the site of the lecture.

Sunday February 20, 2000

Mary Culver, Ann Arbor's new Historic Preservation Coordinator, will speak on **Harry Bennett: Hatchet Man, Architect, Artist and Animal Lover**. This talk will be held at the Ypsilanti UAW Union Hall. Ms. Culver will talk about the fascinating Harry Bennett, Henry Ford's hired thug and right hand man and builder of the mysterious 'castle' on the Huron River.

Sunday March 20, 2000

Joe O'Neal will take us on a tour of his **Collection of Argus cameras** and optical devices located in the former Argus factory at 401 Fourth St (at William). O'Neal became fascinated with these products after he moved his successful construction company into the former Argus factory on the Old West Side. The collection has grown so large that he now has his own small museum, which he will share with us in a personal guided tour.

Saturday April 8, 2000

We will be hosting another **Antiques Appraisal** by the **DuMouchelles Gallery** on this date. Ernest DuMouchelle has agreed to be the appraiser and we will be holding at the Museum on Main Street. More details in next month's *Impressions*.

Sunday April 16, 2000

Grace Shackman, local writer and historian, will lecture on Michigan architect **Alden Dow in Ann Arbor**. Though best known for his work in Midland, Dow had a strong connection to Ann Arbor through friends and clients including his sister Margaret Dow and her husband Harry Towsley. Shackman's slide tour of Dow's local work will be shown in the comfort of the new auditorium at one of his later works—Greenhills School.

Wednesday May 17, 2000

Annual Meeting and Potluck will be held at the Chelsea Depot at 6:00 PM. We will hear about the **History of the Chelsea Milling Company** by **Howard S. "Howdy" Holmes** after stuffing ourselves with the usual feast. Holmes will tell us about the famous Jiffy Mix Company his father founded in Chelsea.

Saturday June 3, 2000

A **van trip to Midland, Michigan** will leave at 9 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. The cost will be $40/person and there will be a limit of 30 people. We will tour the Alden Dow Home and Studio and enjoy a box lunch in the living room of this lovely home. We will visit the home of his parents, Herbert and Grace Dow, which is next door. We end the day with a stroll through the beautiful Dow Gardens. Depending on the number of subscribers we will take one or two 15-person comfortable vans for the two-hour drive to Midland. Refreshments will be provided on the morning trip and a brief comfort stop will be made both going and returning.

Memberships Being Renewed

President Pauline Walters reports that we currently have 221 regular memberships, 32 Life Members, four business memberships, four business patrons and nine businesses sponsoring our newsletter. In addition to renewing memberships, many of you have contributed to the Museum Fund, the Endowment Fund, the Beach Ball Fund, and the Alice Ziegler Fund. Thank you one and all. Look on your label for a date to see if you have renewed your membership. If not, please take a moment to renew your membership. If you are not a member, consider becoming one. We count on your continued support!

Local Businesses Support Our Newsletter

Two more history-loving businesses have added their funds to support the publication of the Impressions. Thank you ERIM for your $300 contribution and Edwards Brothers for your $500 donation.

Docents Needed

We are looking forward to being open on a regular basis. To do this we will need much volunteer help. If you would be interested in being a docent at the Museum one or more afternoons a month, please call Pauline at 662-9092. In January we will get together to organize an active group of volunteers.

FEBRUARY SPONSORS

This month's sponsors are:

BEACON INVESTMENT and AATA

Around The County

Mary Culver, a graduate of the Historic Preservation Program at EMU, now staffs the **Ann Arbor Historic District Commission**. She replaces Louisa Pieper, who retired in July. Anyone in Ann Arbor with questions about historic districts, historic buildings, or tax credits can contact Mary at 734-996-3008.

The **Saline Area Historical Society** will be sponsoring a talk on Wednesday, February 16th, by **Dave Harrell**. He will speak on the Ann Arbor Railroad Historical Society's exhibit in Durand and will show a video on the "History of the Ann Arbor Railroad." The program will be at 7:30 PM at Saline's Depot Museum, 402 N. Ann Arbor St. Call Wayne Clements at 429-9621 or Agnes Dikeman at 769-2219 for more information.

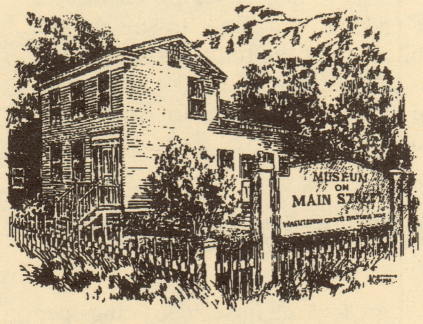
On **March 15th**, the Society will hear Tammy Freeberg from the MSU Extension Office discuss Agriculture: AG Ambassador's Program. On Wednesday, **April 19th, Cathy Andrews** will speak on furniture styles, with information on how to identify genuine antiques. And on **May 6th the Rentschler Farm** will re-open with a Springtime on the Farm exhibit.

The **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation** will be hosting **Lisa Walters and Bill Nickels** discussing "Collecting Ypsilanti Postcards." The meeting will be held on Wednesday, **January 26th** at the Freighthouse Coffee Shop in Depot Town at 7:30 PM. For more information call Lisa Walters at 485-3683 or visit their website at www.yhf.org.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** will meet on Sunday, **February 27th**, at the Liberal Arts and Science Building, Lecture Hall #1 at Washtenaw Community College. The meeting starts at 1:30 PM. The speaker will be member Mrs. **Jessie Siekmeier** who will lecture on "Looking for my roots in West Yorkshire, England." The second part of the program will feature Mrs **Nancy Goff's** pictures of Yorkshire, taken on photography trips that she has led through the area. For more information on programs, contact Mary Lou Barry at 734-769-5452.

Next Program

Mary Culver will speak on **"Harry Bennett, Hatchet Man, Architect, Artist and Animal Lover."** It will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, February 20th, at the UAW Hall opposite the Ford Plant at 454 Chidester in Ypsilanti. Post cards will be mailed with directions.



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

HARRY BENNETT, HATCHET MAN, ARCHITECT, ARTIST AND ANIMAL LOVER

SPEAKER • MARY CULVER

2 p.m. • Sunday
February 20, 2000

UAW HALL
454 Chidester • Ypsilanti

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